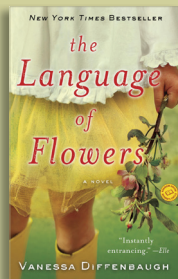




A HAYWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY BOOK-TO-ACTION PROGRAM



THE VICTORIAN LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS WAS USED TO CONVEY ROMANTIC EXPRESSIONS:

honeysuckle for devotion, aster for patience, and red roses for love. But for Victoria Jones in the novel *The Language*

of Flowers, it has been more useful in communicating grief, mistrust, and solitude. After a childhood spent in the foster-care system, she is unable to get close to anybody, and her only connection to the world is through flowers and their meanings.

Now eighteen and emancipated from the system, Victoria has nowhere to go and sleeps in a San Francisco public park, where she plants a small garden of her own. Soon a local florist discovers her talents, and Victoria realizes that she has a gift for helping others through the flowers she chooses for them. But a mysterious vendor at the flower market inspires her to question what's been missing in her life. And when she's forced to confront a painful secret from her past, she must decide whether it's worth risking everything for a second chance at happiness.

Photo: Infinity Portrait Design



MEET VANESSA DIFFENBAUGH

AUTHOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING NOVEL *THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS*

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17 – 2PM

HAYWARD CITY HALL – CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
777 B STREET, DOWNTOWN HAYWARD

VANESSA DIFFENBAUGH was born in San Francisco and raised in Chico. After studying creative writing and education at Stanford, she went on to teach art and writing to youth in low-income communities. She and her husband, PK, have three children: Tre'von, eighteen; Chela, four; and Miles, three. Tre'von, a former foster child, attends New York University on a Gates Millennium Scholarship. Diffenbaugh is also the founder of **The Camellia Network**, which is building a nationwide movement to support youth transitioning from foster care. Diffenbaugh currently lives with her family in Southern California.


FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 510-881-7700 OR EMAIL
SALLY.THOMAS@HAYWARD-CA.GOV, OR VISIT [HTTP://LIBRARY.HAYWARD-CA.GOV](http://library.hayward-ca.gov)



World
Book Night
April 23

HAYWARD VOLUNTEERS ENGAGE IN WORLD BOOK NIGHT AND BOOK-TO-ACTION

On April 23, 2013, 25,000 volunteers from Hayward to Hartford and Sitka to Sarasota participated in World Book Night and gave away half a million free books in more than 6,000 towns and cities across the country, to share their love of reading, person to person. Locally, Hayward Public Library volunteers, among other local book givers, distributed 340 copies of *THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS* BY VANESSA DIFFENBAUGH to light or non-regular readers.



*Hayward Public Library encourages readers of **The Language of Flowers** to get involved in our Book-to-Action program, to help foster youth get on a path towards independence. On August 17, learn how to get involved with or support organizations that help foster youth, including:*

- **The Camellia Network** (<http://camellianetwork.org>), co-founded by *The Language of Flowers* author Vanessa Diffenbaugh, connects youth aging out of foster care to the critical resources, opportunities, and support they need to thrive in adulthood. In the language of flowers, camellia means “my destiny is in your hands.”

- **Bay Area Youth Centers (BAYC)/Sunny Hills Services** (<http://www.baycyouth.org>), based in Hayward, delivers programs designed to support successful transitions to adulthood by helping young people identify and develop skills that will enable them to make meaningful contributions to the world.

- **Beyond Emancipation (B:E, <http://www.beyondemancipation.org>)** supports current and former foster and probation youth in Alameda

County to make successful transitions to adulthood. Founded in 1995, B:E now serves over 1,000 youth ages 16-24 annually.

- **First Place for Youth** (<http://www.firstplaceforyouth.org>) provides affordable housing and supportive services to former foster youth, and today is considered a national model for providing permanent housing for high risk youth.

- **Alameda County Court Appointed Special Advocates for Children (CASA, <http://www.casaofalamedacounty.org>)** provides one-on-one court advocacy to children who are dependents of the juvenile court, many of whom have been removed from their families due to abuse. Alameda County CASA recruits, trains, and supervises adult volunteers who are appointed by a juvenile court judge to speak for the best interests of the child. They also help the child secure a safe, permanent home.

- **Soulciety** (<http://soulciety.org>) enriches and empowers the lives of at-risk and underprivileged youth by promoting physical, mental, and emotional growth and well-being.

- **Adopt a Special Kid (AASK, <http://www.aask.org>)** has promoted permanency for foster youth and placed thousands of children with loving families since 1973.

SPONSORED BY THE HAYWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY, THE FRIENDS OF THE HAYWARD PUBLIC LIBRARY, AND THE BOOK SHOP ON B STREET. RECEIVE A 10 PERCENT DISCOUNT ON PURCHASES OF *THE LANGUAGE OF FLOWERS* AT THE BOOK SHOP (1007 “B” STREET).

